



Doing Business in Sao Tome and Principe: 2008 A Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies

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Chapter 1: Doing Business in Sao Tome and Principe (STP)

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Market Overview

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- Sao Tome and Principe is located in the Gulf of Guinea and has a population of approximately 152,000 people.
- A former Portuguese colony, it gained independence in 1975, but maintains strong economic, political and cultural ties with Portugal.
- President Fradique Bandeira Melo de Menezes, in office since July 2001, won another five-year term in July 2006.
- The country GDP per capita was estimated at USD \$764 in 2006.
- The economy is based almost exclusively on agriculture, with cocoa production accounting for nearly 95% of total exports. The country is attempting to develop the petroleum and tourism industries.
- STP uses the Dobra (STD). (approximately 14,500 STD = 1 USD)

Market Challenges

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- The economy remains heavily dependent on agriculture, but with the degradation of many cocoa farms, both the quality and the quantity of production have decreased dramatically.
- Attempts to diversify the economy have met with little success, since investment is hampered by a lack of good basic infrastructure (roads, electricity, and water) and a lack of consistent government policies promoting foreign investment.
- STP suffers from insularity and isolation from potential markets, limited institutional capacity, and a limited resource base, both human and natural.
- The country has a small internal market and limited access to foreign capital.

Market Opportunities

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- The discovery of off-shore oil reserves provides STP with the opportunity to enter an era of development, accompanied by decreasing dependence on foreign assistance.
- Tourism is one of the island nation's most promising sectors, with the potential for foreign investment.
- The liberalization of the telecommunications market and the power sector may provide opportunities for investment.
- The construction of a deep water port and a new international airport may also provide investment opportunities.
- Despite recent declines, agriculture will continue to be an important sector.

- There are few US companies operating in STP.
- Visiting the country and meeting key players in the government are vital to doing business in Sao Tome and Principe.
- Sao Tome and Principe is member of several multi-lateral organizations, including SADEC, CEEAC, MERCOSUL, CEDEAO and CEMAC.

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Chapter 2: Political and Economic Environment

For background information on the political and economic environment of the country, please click on the link below to the U.S. Department of State Background Notes.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5434.htm>

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Using an Agent or Distributor

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There are no local companies that act as agents or distributors for US companies. However, there are some local companies that have experience working with US companies. To find a local agent for a company, contact a US Department of Commerce district office and request ADS (agents/distributors service). If Commerce records do not already contain suitable prospects, the office will ask the US Embassy in Libreville for information.

Establishing an Office

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There is no agency that can provide service to simplify the procedures for establishing an office in Sao Tome and Principe. It is advisable to hire a legal office to provide this service; otherwise, the procedures can be costly and time-consuming. Following is a general description of how a foreign company can establish a local office:

1. Provide full company related documentation, translated into Portuguese.
2. Check the uniqueness of the proposed company name and reserve a name.
3. Notarize the company statutes with the Registration Office in the Ministry of Justice.
4. File a company declaration with the Office of Taxation in the Ministry of Finance.
5. Register with the Social Security Office in the Ministry of Labor.
6. Publish the incorporation notice in the official gazette (Diario da Republica).
7. Publish the incorporation notice in a national newspaper.

8. Register the company with the Commercial Registry in the Ministry of Commerce.
9. Apply for a commercial operations permit (alvara).
10. Apply for a taxpayer identification number with the Office of Taxation in the Ministry of Finance.
11. Register employees with the Social Security Office.
12. Other documents needed include: 1) copies of the by-laws of the parent company and of the minutes of the meeting of the board of directors in which the opening of the STP branch is approved; 2) a certificate of appointment of the general manager in STP; 3) a copy of any agreement signed with a Saotomean company or with the government of STP; 4) two copies of the application to the Court for authorization to operate; and 5) two photographs and a copy of the passport of the General Manager.

This process should take no longer than two months.

For More information contact:

Direção de Comercio
Ministério de Comercio, Industria e Turismo
Rua Viriato da Cruz
Tel. +239-22-14-84
São Tomé, São Tomé e Príncipe

Direção dos Impostos
Ministério de Plano e Finanças
Praça da Independência
Tel. +239-22-15-18
São Tomé, São Tomé e Príncipe

Direção de Registos e Notariados
Ministério da Justiça
Avenida 12 de Julho
Tel.: +239-22-13-47, +239-22-24-52
São Tomé, São Tomé e Príncipe

Instituto de Segurança Social
Ministério de Trabalho Emprego e Solidariedade
Praça Yon Gato
Tel. +239-22-13-82, +239-22-11-10
São Tomé, São Tomé e Príncipe

Câmara do Comercio, Industria e Agricultura
Avenida 12 de Julho
Tel.: +239-22-14-09, +239-22-27-23
São Tomé, São Tomé e Príncipe

Franchising

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There are currently no US franchises in STP and opportunities are limited.

Direct Marketing

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There are no restrictions on foreign firms directly marketing products in STP.

Joint Ventures/Licensing

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Joint ventures and licensing agreements are limited in Sao Tome and Principe.

Selling to the Government

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US firms interested in selling directly to the government should ensure that funds have been appropriated in the Saotomean budget for the items they wish to sell.

Distribution and Sales Channels

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Most US products sold in STP are marketed through Saotomean agents working directly with their Portuguese counterparts.

Selling Factors/Techniques

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The general public obtains its information through the following means: approximately 85% through the radio, 65% through television, and 13%-15% through newspapers.

Electronic Commerce

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E-commerce is not widely used and is not a practical means of doing business in STP.

Trade Promotion and Advertising

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The general public obtains its information through the National TV and National Radio Station. A smaller percentage of people read newspapers. Following are some of the major news organizations in Sao Tome and Principe:

TVS – Televisao de Sao Tome e Principe
Bairo Quinta de Santo Antonio
Sao Tome, Sao Tome e Principe
Tel. +239 22 10 41; +239 22 14 93; +239 22 29 70

RNS – Radio Nacional de Sao Tome e Principe
Avenida Marginal 12 de Julho
C.P. 44
Sao Tome, Sao Tome e Principe
Tel. +239 22 32 93; +239 22 28 75; +239 22 13 42
Fax: +239 22 32 93

Correio da Semana (newspaper)
Avenida Amilcar Cabral, n.o 382
Sao Tome, Sao Tome e Principe
Tel. +239 22 52 99

Email: correiodasemana@cstome.net

Pricing

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Prices in Sao Tome and Principe are high because most goods are imported, and international transportation costs and high customs duties can be considerable factors in selling goods.

Sales Service/Customer Support

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Good customer service, follow-up services, and inventories can confer a significant competitive advantage.

Protecting Your Intellectual Property

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The Department of Commerce in the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism handles patents and copyrights.

Due Diligence

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All US companies are advised to exercise due diligence before doing business in STP.

Local Professional Services

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Retaining an attorney is not required, but a local attorney may be best placed to handle many of the routine problems that may arise.

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Official Government Web Page: www.gov.st
Official Presidential Web Page: www.presidencia.st
Statistic Department: www.ine.st

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- Agricultural Sector
- Tourism Sector
- Petroleum Sector

Agricultural Sector

The agricultural sector in Sao Tome and Principe is currently quite limited. Although the economy is based almost exclusively on agriculture, with cocoa production accounting for almost 95% of the total exports, there is currently only one company exporting chocolate to the U.S. Tropical flowers are also produced in country and are currently being exported to Europe.

Although production is declining, there is a great potential in the agricultural products market. The land is fertile and the weather appropriate for the production of tropical products.

Tourism Sector

The tourism sector has great potential that is just beginning to be exploited. STP is characterized by exceptionally beautiful landscapes, several endemic bird species, a secure and tranquil atmosphere both in the cities and the countryside, and a friendly population.

Petroleum Sector

Although Sao Tome and Principe hasn't entered the oil production stage, some private sector players have expressed optimism for this sector. Others are more cautious. One U.S. oil company has already established an office in STP. Both the Joint Development Zone (JDZ) with Nigeria and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) have potentially lucrative oil blocks to be opened for international bidding shortly.

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Import Tariffs

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Import tariffs in Sao Tome and Principe follow the outline below:

- No import tariffs for milk and wheat.
- Common External Tariff – 5% for category one products (e.g., basic products), 10% for category two (e.g., raw materials), 20% for category three (e.g., intermediate products such as most food and cosmetics), and 70% for category four (all alcoholic products and cigarettes).

Trade Barriers

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With the exception of pork meat, all categories of products may be imported into Sao Tome and Principe.

Import Requirements and Documentation

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A bill of lading and an invoice must accompany all goods entering STP. Import permits and sanitary and phytosanitary certificates are required for farm produce (including meat and poultry) and permits must also be issued for hazardous products (weapons, explosives, chemical products). STP does not require an import license for other products.

Temporary Entry

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Some goods enter STP duty free on a temporary basis. For certain sectors (oil, construction, and tourism) the law suspends custom duties in the form of temporary admission or exemptions on all entry taxes/duties for the importation of material required in its operations.

Labeling and Marking Requirements

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There are no special labeling or marking requirements in STP.

Prohibited and Restricted Imports

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The importation of pork meat is prohibited due to concerns about swine pox.

Customs Regulations and Contact Information

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Customs Office (Direcao das Alfandegas)
Ministerio de Plano e Financas
Largo das Alfandegas
Tel.: +239-22-48-96, +239-22-23-89
Sao Tome, Sao Tome and Principe

Standards

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Overview

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STP generally follows Portuguese standards, but has no central standards or regulatory agency.

Standards Organizations

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NIST Notify U.S. Service

Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to report to the WTO all proposed technical regulations that could affect trade with other Member countries. **Notify U.S.** is a free, web-based e-mail subscription service that offers an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect your access to international markets. Register online at Internet URL:
<http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/>

Product Certification

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Telecommunication equipment is required to obtain a certificate by AGER, STP's General Regulating Agency for telecommunications.

Labeling and Marking

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There are no special labeling or marking requirements.

Contacts

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Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism
Largo das Alfândegas
São Tome,
São Tome and Principe
Tel. +239-22-46-57; +239-22-48-75

Trade Agreements

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Sao Tome and Principe is a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of West African States (CEDEAO), the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC), the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), and the Common Market for the South (MERCOSUL).

Web Resources

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Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC): <http://cemac.cf/>

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Openness to Foreign Investment

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The government of Sao Tome and Principe has a positive attitude toward foreign investment, but current business regulations present foreign investors with significant bureaucratic and procedural hurdles. However, there is an effort underway to revise the investment code, making it more attractive to foreign investors. The consensus among government authorities and economic analysts is that considerable foreign investment is needed for the development of agriculture and fisheries, tourism, telecommunications, and financial services.

The Investment Code of 1992 provides for both public and mixed capital investments, allowing foreign investment in every sector except the extractive industries, notably petroleum exploration and production. Areas open to foreign investment include agriculture; fisheries; production of basic consumer goods; construction; telecommunications; financial services; electricity, water, and sanitation services; tourism; and transportation.

The law provides three investment incentive regimes, which are defined by the level of investment (less than USD \$100,000; between USD \$100,000 and USD \$1 million; and over USD \$1 million) and provide for such incentives as reduced real estate transfer tax, reduced income tax, exemption from customs duties for imported equipment, access to special credit lines, and usage of public buildings. For foreign investment in particular, there is a tax exemption for the profits that are kept in the company as reserves and for bank operations related to capital inflow. The state also guaranties capital repatriation given the fulfillment of all legal obligations and proper authorization.

Created in 1989, the national Chamber of Commerce serves to organize the private sector and encourage private sector participation in public works projects. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce works with the National Statistics Institute (INE) to collect and distribute information aimed at facilitating business decision-making.

Conversion and Transfer Policies

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The national financial system is supervised by the Central Bank of STP (BCSTP), which defines monetary and exchange rate policies in the country. Among other responsibilities, the BCSTP sells hard currencies and establishes indicative interest rates. The dobra (denoted with the acronym “STD”) is the country’s national currency. One US dollar is equivalent to about 14,500 STD.

The government has been working closely with the BCSTP to ensure that greater inflows of foreign exchange translate into an increase in access to raw materials for business. The STD exchange rate is determined by the BCSTP based on a specially weighted basket of currencies from countries that enjoy influential trade and financial relations with STP. This policy has been in effect since 1988 and continues to be effective in achieving the stability of the exchange rate against major world currencies, especially the US dollar and the euro. The composition of this basket of currencies is subject to periodical reassessment given local and international economic and monetary developments.

Repatriation of capital is possible with prior authorization. Transfers of profits outside STP are limited to 15% of the capital invested. Reinvestments are encouraged by the State with associated reductions in income taxes.

Expropriation and Compensation

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STP government policy maintains strong protection of all types of property, including private property, and the right of citizens to own and use property. Expropriation is allowed in the public interest and with adequate compensation. There is no evidence to suggest that repatriation would be undertaken in a discriminatory manner or in violation of established principles of domestic and international law.

In the aftermath of a coup in Portugal that ended that country’s colonial empire, STP carried out a massive land expropriation from colonial farmers on September 30, 1976. There have not been any other documented cases of expropriation of foreign-owned properties.

Dispute Settlement

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Disputes are generally solved amicably without litigation, and there is no record of disagreements involving foreign investors reaching international courts.

Performance Requirements and Incentives

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There are no specific performance requirements imposed as a condition for establishing, maintaining, or expanding investment. There are no requirements for investors to buy local products, to export a certain percentage of output or to invest in a specific

geographical area. There is no blanket requirement that nationals own shares in foreign investments in STP.

Right to Private Ownership and Establishment

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Foreigners are free to establish and own business enterprises and engage in all forms of business activity in STP with the exception of the military sector. Prohibitions exist on the ownership of certain types of guns. In addition, the form of public participation (percentage of government ownership in joint ventures) varies with each agreement.

The government of STP is gradually moving towards open competition in all sectors of the economy, and competitive equality is the official standard applied to private enterprises in competition with public enterprises with respect to access to markets, credit, and other business operations. Former public monopolies in farming, banking, insurance, airline services, telecommunications and trade (export and import) have already been eliminated.

Protection of Property Rights

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The GoSTP guarantees private property rights, and expropriation for public use must be accompanied by a fair, adequate, and effective payment in advance.

Transparency of Regulatory System

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The laws and regulations that affect direct investment, such as environmental rules, health and safety regulations, etc., are non-discriminatory and apply equally to foreign and domestic firms. STP tax laws reward Santomeans who return to their home country with certain tax exemptions while also attracting non-Santomean personnel to live and work in STP.

Labor, health, and safety laws exist but are not properly enforced. There are some reports that the process of terminating unsatisfactory employees is cumbersome and that protective labor laws can make it difficult to bring skilled foreign-national specialists such as pilots, engineers, or architects into STP.

Efficient Capital Markets and Portfolio Investment

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The banking system in STP has seen significant development in recent years. Until recently, STP could count only one commercial bank, while there are currently six private commercial banks, five of which were opened in last two years. Ownership and management of the commercial banks are local as well as Cameroonian, Angolan, Portuguese, and Nigerian.

Commercial banks offer most corporate banking services, or can procure them from overseas. Local credit to the private sector is limited and expensive, but available to both foreign and local investors on equal terms. The country's main economic actors finance themselves outside STP. Commercial banks have transferred excess liquidity to correspondent banks outside the region.

Political Violence

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Considered a low threat country, STP is characterized by its stability, untroubled ethnic interaction, and generally laid-back lifestyle. In a highly consensus-oriented society, political violence is rare. There have been coup attempts, police mutinies, and other disturbances in the past five years, but with very low levels of associated violence and few casualties. Strikes are not the primary means to settle labor disputes, and labor strikes have been very rare in recent decades.

With almost 30 years of independent rule, there have been virtually no incidents of politically motivated attacks on projects or installations. Anti-American sentiment and terrorism are not significant factors in STP.

Corruption

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Corruption has increased during the past decade in step with greater economic development, and mainly consists of bribery, embezzlement, and mismanagement of public funds. The STP government has denounced corruption and pledged to take steps to prevent and combat it, but there is currently no anti-corruption law in place. Corruption is widely perceived as immoral.

Analysts attribute the recent rise in corruption to escalating poverty, the absence of regulations, low wages for government workers and officials, and lack of strong leadership. Signs of corruption are particularly obvious during election campaigns, when voters receive money to favor certain candidates or political parties. By and large, since democratization introduced in 1990, various forms of infighting, high levels of corruption, and administrative mismanagement have characterized political life in STP.

In support of the government's anti-corruption agenda, the National Assembly has approved an oil revenue distribution law, and the GoSTP started reviewing and updating existing contracts with some foreign companies to favor liberalization and free market competition. For instance, the National Assembly ordered an investigation into the JDZ second round bid for the oil blocks of December 2004, which had been the focus of public criticism for corruption. The Attorney General undertook an investigation and concluded that the procedures used to award the licenses were seriously flawed and failed to meet minimum acceptable standards. However, it is unclear what consequences, if any, will result from the investigation.

Bilateral Investment Agreements

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As of January 2008, the US has no bilateral investment or taxation treaty with STP. STP has signed bilateral investment agreements with Portugal, Angola, and Gabon but is party to no bilateral taxation treaties.

OPIC and Other Investment Insurance Programs

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Up to now, there is no OPIC or other investment insurance program in STP.

Labor

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A significant portion of the STP workforce is well educated, although not at the university level. The workforce is multi-lingual (Portuguese and French) and young. Further training will be needed as the economy continues to develop. The labor cost is about USD \$35-50 per month and increasing over time. Minimum wage, workday, overtime, paid annual vacations, and holidays are established by STP Labor Law. Women are entitled to state-funded maternity leave for a period of 30 days before and 30 days after childbirth.

Foreign-Trade Zones/Free Ports

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STP currently has no free trade zones or free ports. However, the Free Zone Authority (AZF) was recently established to create a free trade zone in STP. The AZF is working with private institutions and companies to acquire funds for the implementation of the free trade zone. According to the government of STP, there are many foreign companies interested in the development of a STP Free Zone, motivated by the recent oil discoveries both in the Joint Development Zone shared with Nigeria and in STP's Exclusive Economic Zone.

Foreign Direct Investment Statistics

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Detailed statistics are unavailable, but Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) appears to be increasing due to structural macroeconomic reforms that have increased investor confidence, as well as recent developments in the petroleum sector and the process of privatization being undertaken in STP. The share of FDI in the country's gross fixed capital increased to 45.7% in 2003 after having been stable at 14-18% for several years. In 2003, FDI jumped from USD \$4 million to USD \$10 million.

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OHADA <http://www.ohada.com/index.php?newlang=english>

OAPI <http://www.oapi.wipo.net/en/OAPI/index.htm>

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Chapter 7: Trade and Project Financing

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How Do I Get Paid (Methods of Payment)

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Payment is usually made by irrevocable letters of credit.

How Does the Banking System Operate

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Sao Tome and Principe's banking system includes one Central Bank (*Banco Central de Sao Tome e Principe* - BCSTP) and six commercial banks. ECOBANK has operations in Sao Tome and Principe. Of the remaining five commercial banks, two are affiliated with Cameroonian banks: the Afriland First Bank and Commercial Bank of Sao Tome and Principe (COBSTP). Other banks are Island Bank from Nigeria and Banco Equador with Angolan capital.

All the commercial banks are supervised by the BCSTP.

Foreign-Exchange Controls

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The national financial system is supervised by the Central Bank of STP (BCSTP), which defines monetary and exchange rate policies in the country. Among other responsibilities, the BCSTP sells hard currencies and establishes indicative interest rates. The dobra (denoted with the acronym "STD") is the country's national currency. One US dollar is equivalent to about 14,500 STD.

The government has been working closely with the BCSTP to ensure that greater inflows of foreign exchange translate into an increase in access to raw materials for business. The STD exchange rate is determined by the BCSTP based on a specially weighted basket of currencies from countries that enjoy influential trade and financial relations with STP. This policy has been in effect since 1988 and continues to be effective in achieving the stability of the exchange rate against major world currencies, especially the US dollar and the euro. The composition of this basket of currencies is subject to periodical reassessment given local and international economic and monetary developments.

Repatriation of capital is possible with prior authorization. Transfers of profits outside STP are limited to 15% of the capital invested. Reinvestments are encouraged by the State with associated reductions in income taxes.

U.S. Banks and Local Correspondent Banks

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There are no U.S. banks operating in Sao Tome and Principe. Portuguese banks are used for transferring services.

Project Financing

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Projects may be financed through national or international institutions.

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Export-Import Bank of the United States: <http://www.exim.gov>

Country Limitation Schedule: http://www.exim.gov/tools/country/country_limits.html

OPIC: <http://www.opic.gov>

Trade and Development Agency: <http://www.tda.gov/>

SBA's Office of International Trade: <http://www.sba.gov/oit/>

USDA Commodity Credit Corporation: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/cc/default.htm>

U.S. Agency for International Development: <http://www.usaid.gov>

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Business Customs

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Sao Tome and Principe inherited the Portuguese legal system after independence in 1975. Business law is mostly based on Portuguese law, and business customs are similar to those in Europe and the US.

Travel Advisory

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In Sao Tome and Principe, petty thievery can be a problem. US citizens should maintain security awareness at all times. More information on traveling to Sao Tome and Principe may be obtained through the Consular Information Sheet at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1010.html.

Visa Requirements

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A passport and visa are required for entry into Sao Tome and Principe. Proof of yellow fever vaccination may be required for entry. Visas must be obtained in advance, as airport visas are not available. Travelers should obtain the latest information and details from the Permanent Mission of Sao Tome and Principe to the UN, 400 Park Ave., 7th Floor, New York, NY 10022, telephone (212) 317-0533, fax (212) 317-0580. Overseas, inquiries should be made at the nearest São Tomean embassy or consulate.

Visa applicants should go to the following links.

State Department Visa Website: <http://travel.state.gov/visa/index.html>

United States Visas.gov: <http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov/>

US Embassy Libreville: http://libreville.usembassy.gov/visa_services.html

Telecommunications

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Telecommunications are generally adequate. Local and long distance telephone service is available 24 hours a day. Cellular service is offered widely in Sao Tome and Principe. Telephone rates are much higher than those in the U.S. Local connection to the Internet

is available through CST – *Companhia Santomense de Telecomunicacoes*. Broadband internet (e.g., ADSL) is available to companies.

Transportation

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International airlines serving Libreville are Air Portugal (TAP), Angola Airlines (TAAG), STP Airways, Air Service, Air Contractor and SCD Aviation. Travel to the United States necessarily includes a layover in Portugal, Gabon, France, Morocco or South Africa. Direct flights to Lisbon are available once a week. There are also direct flights to capitals in Central and West Africa.

Sao Tome and Principe International Airport is near downtown. STP has a reasonable road network, and there are only two airports in country, one in Sao Tome and one in Santo Antonio, Principe Island. SCD Aviation is the only airline providing domestic flights.

Taxis and car rental are available in Sao Tome and Principe. The principal hotels offer bus service to and from Sao Tome and Principe Airport for international flights.

Language

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Portuguese is STP's official language. English is not widely spoken. Hotels may arrange for translation and interpretation services.

Health

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Medical facilities are limited. A list of doctors may be obtained through the Embassy's consular section or at http://libreville.usembassy.gov/medical_information.html. Malaria is endemic in STP. Malaria suppressants are strongly recommended and should be begun prior to arrival. Travelers should drink only bottled water or bottled drinks. Hygiene at restaurants is generally good.

Local Time, Business Hours, and Holidays

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Local time is GMT

Business hours: 7:00 AM – 12:00PM 12:30 PM – 15:30 PM

STP Holidays in 2006 are:

January 1	New Year's Day
January 4	Amador's Day
February 3	Martyr's Day
May 1	Labor Day
July 12	Independence Day
September 6	Armed Forces' Day
September 30	Reform's Day
December 21	Saint Thomas (<i>Sao Tome</i>) Day
December 25	Christmas

Temporary Entry of Materials and Personal Belongings

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Some goods enter STP duty free on a temporary basis. For certain sectors (oil, construction and tourism) the law suspends custom duties in the form of temporary admission or exemptions on all entry taxes/duties for the importation of material required in its operations.

Web Resources

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State Department Visa Website: <http://travel.state.gov/visa/index.html>

United States Visas.gov: <http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov/>

US Embassy Libreville: http://libreville.usembassy.gov/visa_services.html

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Chapter 9: Contacts, Market Research, and Trade Events

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- [Market Research](#)
- [Trade Events](#)

Contacts

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US Embassy Libreville

Ambassador – Eunice Reddick
Deputy Chief of Mission – Nathan V. Holt
Economic/Commercial Officer – John C. Corrao
Economic/Commercial Assistant – Abigail Nguema

US Mailing Address:
2270 Libreville Place
Washington, DC 20521-2270

Local Address:
Boulevard du Bord de Mer
BP 4000
Libreville, Gabon

Tel. +241-76-20-03
Fax +241-74-55-07
<http://libreville.usembassy.gov/index.html>

Government of Sao Tome and Principe

Direção de Comercio
Ministério de Comercio, Industria e Turismo
Rua Viriato da Cruz
Tel. +239-22-14-84
São Tomé, São Tomé e Príncipe

Direção dos Impostos
Ministério de Plano e Finanças
Praça da Independência
Tel. +239-22-15-18
São Tomé, São Tomé e Príncipe

Direção de Registos e Notariados
Ministério da Justiça
Avenida 12 de Julho
Tel.: +239-22-13-47, +239-22-24-52

São Tomé, São Tomé e Príncipe

Instituto de Segurança Social
Ministério de Trabalho Emprego e Solidariedade
Praça Yon Gato
Tel. +239-22-13-82, +239-22-11-10
São Tomé, São Tomé e Príncipe

Câmara do Comercio, Industria e Agricultura
Avenida 12 de Julho
Tel.: +239-22-14-09, +239-22-27-23
São Tomé, São Tomé e Príncipe

Banco Central de Sao Tome e Principe
Avenida Marginal 12 de Julho
Tel.: +239-24-37-00, +239-22-19-66
Sao Tome, Sao Tome e Principe

Commercial Banks

Banco Internacional de Sao Tome e Principe – BISTP
Praça da Independência
Tel.: +239-24-31-00
bcentral@cstome.net
São Tomé, São Tomé e Príncipe

Banco Equador
Rua de Mocambique
Tel.: +239-22-61-50, +239-22-61-51
www.bancoequador.st
be@bancoequador.st
Sao Tome, Sao Tome e Principe

Island Bank SA
Rua da Guine
C.P. 1044
Tel.: +239-22-74-91, +239-22-74-90
Sao Tome, Sao Tome e Principe

Commercial Bank – Sao Tome e Principe
Avenida Marginal 12 de Julho
C.P 1109 Sao Tome
Tel.: +239-22-76-77, +239-22-76-78

ECOBANK Sao Tome
Edificio HB
Travessa do Pelourinho
C.P. 316 São Tome
Tel.: +239-22-21-41
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ecobankst@ecobank.com

www.ecobank.com

Market Research

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To view market research reports produced by the U.S. Commercial Service, please go to the following website: <http://www.export.gov/marketresearch.html> and click on Country and Industry Market Reports.

Please note that these reports are only available to U.S. citizens and U.S. companies. Registration to the site is required, but is free of charge.

Trade Events

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Please click on the link below for information on upcoming trade events.

<http://www.export.gov/tradeevents.html>

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Chapter 10: Guide to Our Services

The U.S. Commercial Service offers customized solutions to help your business enter and succeed in markets worldwide. Our global network of trade specialists will work one-on-one with you through every step of the exporting process, helping you to:

- Target the best markets with our world-class research
- Promote your products and services to qualified buyers
- Meet the best distributors and agents for your products and services
- Overcome potential challenges or trade barriers

For more information on the services the U.S. Commercial Service offers U.S. businesses, please click on the link below.

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U.S. exporters seeking general export information/assistance or country-specific commercial information should consult with their nearest **Export Assistance Center** or the **U.S. Department of Commerce's Trade Information Center** at **(800) USA-TRADE**, or go to the following website: <http://www.export.gov>

To the best of our knowledge, the information contained in this report is accurate as of the date published. However, **The Department of Commerce** does not take responsibility for actions readers may take based on the information contained herein. Readers should always conduct their own due diligence before entering into business ventures or other commercial arrangements. **The Department of Commerce** can assist companies in these endeavors.